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Docket No.: K0600.0208/P208  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Shiro Fujieda

Application No.: 09/445,304

Group Art Unit: 2623

Filed: December 6, 1999

Examiner: V. Kibler

For: **IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND  
METHOD, MEDIUM STORING  
PROGRAM FOR IMAGE PROCESSING,  
AND INSPECTION APPARATUS**

**RECEIVED**

**JAN 16 2003**

**Technology Center 2600**

**AMENDMENT**

**Box Non-Fee Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 13, 2002, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**In the Specification**

Replacement for paragraph, 3, page 30:

For example, a local region (3 pixels by pixels) is set for a pixel g at a coordinate position (x, y), as shown in Fig. 7. In differential processing by the Sobel method, level gradients dx (x, y) and dy (x, y) along the respective axes are respectively calculated by equations (1) and (2) using a luminance (brightness) level I of each of the pixels:

$$dx(x, y) = \{I(x+1, y-1) + 2 \cdot I(x+1, y) + I(x+1, y+1)\}$$